

1. What is a charter form of county government?

Answer: A charter form of county government provides the citizens of the chartering county with the power to effectively operate its government without seeking changes through the state legislature in Nashville. The charter document is akin to a county constitution, segregating the county's legislative, executive and judicial functions. The Shelby County Charter was ratified by the voters of Shelby County on August 2, 1984 and became effective September 1, 1986.

2. Why does the Shelby County Charter need to be amended?

Answer: The Shelby County Charter needs to be amended because there are potential deficiencies in the Charter similar to those found in the Knox County Charter by the Tennessee Supreme Court. Specifically, the Court held the Knox County Charter was incomplete because it failed to specifically provide for the offices, and/or otherwise assign the duties and functions, of the Sheriff, Trustee, Register, County Clerk, and Assessor. As a result, the Court held these constitutional county officers were acting as de facto officers ("existing in fact"), although they have been duly elected and their actions have been valid.

3. How can a charter amendment be proposed?

Answer: A charter amendment can be proposed by creation of a charter commission; by adoption of an ordinance by two-thirds vote of the Board of Commissioners; or by petition signed by at least 15% of the registered voters in Shelby County.

4. How can the public participate in forming an amendment proposed by the Board of Commissioners?

Answer: The public can participate in forming an amendment proposed by the Board of Commissioners through attendance at the various public meetings of the 2007 Ad Hoc Committee on Shelby County Charter Amendments and by emailing comments and suggestions to the Board of Commissioners at "[Citizen Comments](#)" or mailing them to: 2007 Ad Hoc Committee on Shelby County Charter Amendments, 160 N. Main, Suite 450, Memphis, Tennessee 38103.

5. When will the public vote on the amendment?

Answer: The registered voters of Shelby County will vote on the amendment at the next general election allowed by the state election laws following submission of the proposed amendment to the County Election Commission. The earliest possible election for a voter referendum is the 2008 August election as opined by the "State Coordinator of Elections."

6. How can the public get a copy of the Handbook for Proposing Amendment to Shelby County Charter?

Answer: The public can get a copy of the Handbook by downloading it from the internet at www.shelbycountyttn.gov; by picking a copy up at 160 N. Main, Suite 450; or by calling (901) 545-4301 and requesting a copy by mail.

7. How can the public get a copy of the Shelby County Charter?

Answer: The public can get a copy of the Shelby County Charter by downloading it from the internet at www.shelbycountyttn.gov; by referring to Appendix "A" to the Handbook for Proposing Amendment to Shelby County Charter; or by calling (901) 545-4301 and requesting a copy by mail.

8. Where can the public get a copy of the organizational chart for Shelby County Government?

Answer: The public can get a copy of Shelby County Government's organizational chart by downloading it from the internet at www.shelbycountyttn.gov; by referring to the Handbook for Proposing Amendment to Shelby County Charter; or by calling (901) 545-4301 and requesting a copy by mail.

9. What are the duties of the officers that will be effected by the proposed amendment?

Answer: A summary of the duties of the Sheriff, Trustee, Register, County Clerk, and Assessor can be obtained by downloading it from the internet at www.shelbycountyttn.gov; by referring to the Handbook for Proposing Amendment to Shelby County Charter; or by calling (901) 545-4301 and requesting a copy by mail.